

Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches Resolution on the Essentials of Church Membership

Whereas, the Scriptures demonstrate a formal system of identification with and membership in a local church consisting of those who are “added to the church” (Acts 2:47), a definite number of believers (Acts 2:41; 4:4), specific lists and qualification for widows among the church (1 Timothy 5:9), identification of those who belonged to the church from whom deacons were selected (Acts 6:3), even the dismissal of some from the church (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:11); and

Whereas, Acts 2:41 declares that it is those who were added to the church made professions of faith and were baptized by immersion (*baptidzo*) as a visible testimony of one’s faith and commitment to Christ (Acts 8:36-37; 10:47; Romans 6:3-4); and

Whereas, the Scriptures also record removal from association with a local church upon unrepentant sin (1 Corinthians 5:5, 11, 13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6), heretical teachings (1 Timothy 1:20; 2 Timothy 2:17), and causing division in the local church (Romans 16:17) so that the local church will maintain doctrine purity (Jude 4) and there will be no toleration for persistent sinful practices which will destroy the spiritual vitality of the local church (1 Corinthians 5:5-9; 1 Peter 2:21); and,

Whereas, the purpose of the church is for edification (1 Thessalonians 5:11) learning biblical doctrine, enjoying Christian fellowship, observing the ordinances, prayer (Acts 2:42), and fulfilling our Lord’s commission (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8); and

Whereas, failure to maintain biblical local church membership provides opportunity for the growth and toleration of theological and practical heresies and strife within the local church.

It is resolved this 4th day of October 2014 by the fellowshipping churches of the Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches at their Fall Bible Conference that we will continue to propagate and maintain biblically sound churches by properly discipling potential members as to the Scriptural instruction of the Gospel, the practice and significance of baptism, and the biblical beliefs and practices of our respective local Regular Baptist churches to the degree which is appropriate for each candidate before accepting one into membership.